

## Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 EUR-12 IO-11 SSM-05 AF-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA/ - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 034192

R 020247Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 079087

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/AXXCTV

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 1,  
1976:

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES DISCUSSED IN ANY WAY OR AT ANY  
LEVEL WITH ISRAEL THE POSSIBILITY OR THE IDEA OR THE NOTION  
THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT COUNTERACT ANY DIRECT SYRIAN  
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, IF THAT KIND OF INTER-  
VENTION WERE NECESSARY TO SOLVE THE CRISIS THERE?

A. I AM GOING TO PUT MY ANSWER IN ANOTHER WAY, AND THAT  
IS WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST AND I WILL REITERATE TODAY WE  
ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE  
PARTY IN LEBANON.

Q. I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, BUT THAT'S NOT THE  
SPECIFIC QUESTION.

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A. AND THAT IS OUR POSITION TODAY.

Q. YOU'RE OPPOSED IF THE SYRIANS INTERVENE. HAVE YOU  
DISCUSSED WITH ISRAEL AT ANY LEVEL IN ANY WAY RESTRAINTS

ON THEIR BEHAVIOR IF THE SYRIANS DO INTERVENE, DESPITE  
YOUR OPPOSITION TO IT?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. BUT I AM  
STATING EMPHATICALLY OUR CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO ANY  
MILITARY INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE PARTY.

Q. ARE YOU (INAUDIBLE) INTERVENTION WITH THE JORDANIANS?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS IN ANY DETAIL SPECIFIC SUBJECTS OR POSSIBILITIES THAT MIGHT OCCUR IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

Q. BUT WHEN THE QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT ISRAEL YOU REITERATE YOUR OPPOSITION. WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY THAT WHEN I ASK YOU ABOUT JORDAN? DON'T YOU DISCUSS IT WITH JORDAN, INDEED?

A. I HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION.

Q. LET ME TRY AGAIN. DID YOU DISCUSS WITH JORDAN THE PROSPECT OF SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON?

A. BUT I THOUGHT YOUR QUESTION WAS SUGGESTING THAT SOMEHOW WE TOLD THE SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS WE WERE OPPOSED TO MILITARY INTERVENTION BUT NOT THE JORDANIANS. AND I AM SAYING THAT THE JORDANIANS ALSO KNOW THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE PARTY.

Q. BUT HAVE YOU DISCUSSED SYRIAN INTERVENTION WITH THE JORDANIANS?

A. -- FIRST, I AM SAYING I DO NOT KNOW. AND SECONDLY, I AM TELLING YOU THAT WE ARE NOT IN THIS BRIEFING GOING TO DISCUSS THE PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE WITH JORDAN, ISRAEL, SYRIA, OR ANYBODY ELSE.  
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Q. THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS A ONE-WEEK CEASE FIRE THAT HAS JUST GONE INTO EFFECT IN LEBANON. (A) CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT; AND (B) WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE DID THE UNITED STATES PLAY IN THAT?

A. FIRST, I HAVE ONLY SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS, AND I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION. WE HOPE THE PRESS REPORTS ARE TRUE. WE HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING A CEASEFIRE FOR A LONG TIME, AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE MORE THAN A WEEK. WE HOPE THIS WILL BE A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE. BEYOND THAT I DO NOT THINK I CAN RESPOND.

Q. WELL, HOW ABOUT THE SECOND QUESTION?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR BROWN HAVE ANY CONTACTS YET WITH (INAUDIBLE) OR ANYBODY ELSE THERE IN THE HOURS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT?

A. THE ONLY CONTACT THAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF -- AND MIND YOU THE DAYLIGHT HOURS HAVE ENDED IN BEIRUT --

WAS WITH PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH, AND HE WILL BE MEETING WITH OTHER LEADERS IN LEBANON. BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHEN HE IS MEETING WITH THEM OR WHO ELSE HE MET. HE MAY HAVE MET WITH OTHER PEOPLE TODAY. I JUST HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED.

Q. KING HUSSEIN SAID THIS MORNING THAT A SYRIAN INTERVENTION WITH ENOUGH TROOPS TO PREVENT FURTHER FIGHTING BETWEEN WARRING FACTIONS IN LEBANON IS THE ONLY SOLUTION. DOES THE UNITED STATES AGREE WITH KING HUSSEIN?

A. I REPEAT, THE ANSWER IS CONTAINED IN THE POSITION I RESTATED. WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE PARTY. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS WAS COMMUNICATED TO KING HUSSEIN?  
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A. THAT POSITION IS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY KING HUSSEIN.

Q. HAS MR. BROWN BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE PLO IN BEIRUT, OR HAS HE BEEN INSTRUCTED HE MAY CONTACT THEM IF IT IS NECESSARY?

A. NO. I THINK, AS WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, HIS INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

Q. IN REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR BROWN'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, YOU SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT INCLUDE THAT HE HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PLO.

A. YES.

Q. WOULD HE BE VIOLATING INSTRUCTIONS IF HE DID CONTACT THE PLO OR IF THE PLO CONTACTED HIM? I MEAN IF THERE WERE ANY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BROWN AND THE PLO, OR THE

PLA.

A. THE ONLY THING WE HAVE SAID IS THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

Q. WELL, THIS DOESN'T FORECLOSE THE OTHER MEANS -- THE POSITION.

Q. THE FIRST TIME AROUND YOU READ THAT IT WAS, "DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION TO CONTACT THE PLO."

A. TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

Q. COULD I CLARIFY THAT? WOULD IT BE A VIOLATION OF INSTRUCTIONS OR POLICY IF THERE WERE CONTACTS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BROWN AND THE PLO OR THE PLA?

A. HIS INSTRUCTIONS SAY, "DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION." SO IF THEY WERE TO HAVE CONTACTS THEN THAT WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNAUTHORIZED.

Q. ON THAT POINT, SINCE THE PLO AND THE PLA ARE AN ELEMENT IN THE FIGHTING AND ONE OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS IS TO TRY TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE, ISN'T ONE HAND TIED BEHIND HIS BACK BY THESE INSTRUCTIONS?

A. I THINK THE POINT YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLO'S PRESENCE OR POSITION IN LEBANON IN TERMS STRICTLY OF THE LEBANESE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, AND THE PLO'S POSITION OUTSIDE OF LEBANON IN THE GENERAL MIDDLE EASTERN QUESTION, AND I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT.

Q. WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, CAN HE TALK TO THESE ELEMENTS AS LONG AS IT CONCERNS ONLY THE FIGHTING INSIDE LEBANON?

A. HIS INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HE WENT OUT WITH DO NOT INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THE PLO.

Q. COULD HE HAVE INDIRECT CONTACT?

AJM I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY INDIRECT CONTACT.

Q. SAY SOMETHING TO THE LEBANESE TO BE REPEATED TO THE PLO. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL.

A. WE HAVE NEVER PRECLUDED OURSELVES FROM HAVING THE BENEFIT OF WHAT THE PLO THOUGHT ON ANY NUMBER OF SUBJECTS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A QUESTION OF DIRECT CONTACTS.

Q. LET ME GET THIS CLEAR. THERE IS A SENTENCE THERE WHERE YOU SAID YOU RECOGNIZED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLO IN LEBANON AND THE PLO IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT SUGGESTED THAT THAT DIFFERENCE MIGHT ALLOW CONTACTS. YOU ARE RULING THAT OUT, DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE. NO AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTACT. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I AM SAYING THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE HAS DO NOT AUTHORIZE HIM TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

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Q. BOY, WHY DO YOU KEEP INSISTING ON THAT PARTICULAR PHRASEOLOGY?

A. I LIKE IT. IT EXPRESSES OUR THOUGHT.

Q. YOUR PERSONAL PREFERENCES NOTWITHSTANDING, WHY CAN'T YOU GET A MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWER TO THAT? IS IT POSSIBLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN WILL HAVE CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO? AND I UNDERLINE "UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES."

A. WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE WHAT THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE BEFORE THAT QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED.

Q. YOU'RE NOT RULING IT OUT THEN?

A. NO, I CAN'T RULE IT OUT.

Q. CAN YOU REPORT ANYTHING THAT WAS SPECIFICALLY ACCOMPLISHED IN THE TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN HERE? WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON CONSUMMATING THE HAWK DEAL. YOU HAVE SAID THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES THE INTERVENTION WHICH HE WAS ADVOCATING. WAS THERE ANY POSITIVE RESULT OUT OF THE MEETING?

A. I THINK I CAN CERTAINLY SAY IT WAS A POSITIVE MEETING, BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO BRIEF YOU ON THE PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE KING AND WITH THE SECRETARY OTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN SAID PUBLICLY BY THE PRINCIPALS .

Q. YOU ARE LEAVING US CLEARLY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT

YOU ARE NOT RULING OUT BROWN'S CONTACTS WITH THE PLO IN LEBANON?

A. TED SAID UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IT -- THAT THERE WOULD NEVER BE ANY CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH WE WOULD CHANGE OUR MIND THIS. I THINK THAT IS THE GENERAL ESSENCE. AND WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE CIRCUMSTANCES.  
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Q. YOU'RE NOT RULING IT OUT?

A. NOT RULING IT OUT COMPLETELY, NO.

Q. ARE THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BETTER AFTER THE KING'S VISIT? CAN WE SAY THERE IS A

BREAKTHROUGH IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DO NOT THINK YOU SHOULD TIE THE KING'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHETHER THERE IS PEACE OR NOT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CERTAINLY THE MEETING HERE, AS WE INDICATED BEFORE, WAS WELCOMED, AND IT WAS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACE. AND IN THAT CONTEXT, YES, IT WAS HELPFUL.

Q. BUT CAN ANY BREAKTHROUGH BE EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

Q. HAS AMBASSADOR BROWN SENT ANY FIRST-HAND ASSESSMENT YET TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT YOU COULD TELL US ABOUT?

A. JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN I CHECKED, AND WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR BROWN.

Q. TO FOLLOW THAT UP, DOES THE CURRENT SITUATION, IN THE VIEW OF THE SECRETARY OR THE ADMINISTRATION, DIMINISH THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE WILL BE ANY FURTHER OUTSIDE INTERVENTION?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH HIM. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HIS VIEW IS. AND WHEN THE SECRETARY AND I MET THIS MORNING WE HADN'T HAD THIS REPORT OF THE CEASEFIRE. AND THIS OBVIOUSLY, IF IT IS CONFIRMED, IS A VERY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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GENEVA



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KUWAIT  
DHAHRAN  
JERUSALEM  
KHARTOUM  
MANAMA  
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RABAT  
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NATO  
SANA  
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